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CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1942.



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Clare Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report  
for the year 1942.

The Report is an abbreviated one, but records and  
statistics have been preserved in order that, after the  
termination of the present emergency, a fuller Report  
containing separate statistics for each year may be available.

Notwithstanding abnormal conditions the general health  
of the District has continued to be good.

ARTHUR MORRIS,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



General Statistics and Social  
Conditions.

Area:- 49,360 acres.

Number of parishes:- 24

Rateable Value:- £31, 593

Sum represented by a penny rate:- £126, 6. 7

The district is entirely agricultural in character and there are no trades or occupations except those associated with agricultural pursuits.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

<u>Live Births:-</u>	Total	Male.	Female.
Legitimate -----	123	66.	57.
Illegitimate -----	<u>11</u>	<u>7.</u>	<u>4.</u>
Totals. -----	<u>134</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>61</u>

Birth Rate per thousand population --- 15.9

Birth Rate per thousand populations (England & Wales) --- 15.8

<u>Stillbirths:-</u>	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate -----	5.	3.	2.
Illegitimate -----	-	-	-

Rate per thousand live & still births --- 35.9

<u>Deaths:-</u>	Total	Male	Female
	131	70	61

Death Rate per thousand population --- 15.6

Death Rate per thousand population (England & Wales) --- 11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes-

(a) Puerperal sepsis ----	1
(b) Other puerperal causes ---	Nil
Rate per thousand total (live and still) births ---	7.1.

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate	4	3	1.
Illegitimate	1	1	-



Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births	-----	37.3
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	----	32.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	--	90.9
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	-----	34
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-----	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-----	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	----	Nil
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	-----	Nil

Birth and Death Rates for the last four years.-

	1938	1939	1940	1941.
Birth Rate	13.5	13.8	13.7	14.4
Death Rate	13.0	15.4	16.8	13.5

Note:- The Death Rates are uncorrected for age and sex distribution.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There is no alteration in the General arrangements.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :-

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
- (b) A whole time Sanitary Inspector. The appointment is held by Mr. B. Stock C.R.S.I. of Clare. Mr. Stock has held the appointment since the first of January 1920.

Hospitals:-

There are no Hospitals in the area. The majority of patients that require hospital treatment go to Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, or to the West Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmunds. There is no isolation hospital in the district and no fixed arrangements with any outside authority to take cases of infectious disease.

The Newmarket Rural District Council (Cambs) have an isolation hospital near the town of Newmarket and cases are accepted there at a charge of £2. 12. 6 weekly plus the cost of removal by motor ambulance. This arrangements has always functioned quite satisfactorily.



# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

During the year 23 samples of water were sent for analysis. With one exception ( a well at Wickhambrook) all were reported to be of good quality and fit for drinking purposes.

The new waterworks at Babel Green Hundon began supplying water on May 28th and additional standpipes have been provided in the village of Hundon so as to ensure that, as far as possible, all premises have a supply within 200 feet.

Drainage and sewerage:- There is little new to report under this heading. The situation at Clare still remains the same. There is no doubt but that, when circumstances permit, the general situation will need reviewing particularly having regard to the proposed extensions of piped water supplies.

Public Cleansing:- Fortnightly collections of rubbish are made at Clare, every two months at Cavendish, and monthly at Hundon. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. It would add much to the amenities of the district if, at some future date, a proper system of scavenging is organised to cover the whole area.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

Number of inspections	1744.
Complaints	21.
Infectious diseases	62.
Schools	7.
Water supplies	283.
Dwelling houses	294.
New Buildings	5.
Drainage & refuse dumps	130.
Cowsheds and dairies	91.
Bakehouses	28.
Fried fish premises	7.
Slaughterhouses	43.
Knackers yards	9.
Factories and workshops	52.
General inspections	215.
Re-inspections	301.
Petroleum Acts	19.
Explosives Acts	11.
Shops Acts	62.
Evacuation etc.,	100.
Overcrowding	4.

Notices served:-

Informal written	--- 131.	Complied with --- 97.
Statutory	--- None.	



Shops Acts:- There is nothing of importance to record. The total number of shops is 71.

Camping sites:- None

Swimming baths and pools:- None

Eradication of bed bugs:- Two premises were disinfested by zaldicide. There was no re-infestation.

Schools:- There are no fresh matters to report.

Housing:- No new cottages have been built either by the Council or by private enterprise. One plan was submitted under the Building Byelaws, it dealt with additions to an existing house. Three cottages, quite unfit for habitation and obviously unrepairable, have been demolished. Owing to the shortage of labour and difficulty in obtaining material the question of repairs is by no means an easy matter to deal with. Urgent and essential repair work has been attended to as far as possible. Instances of unavoidable overcrowding have occurred, and there are others which, while not officially overcrowded, are on the border line. When circumstances permit a good deal could be done in the way of re-conditioning and repairing, but new houses will be needed, and the problem is one that needs urgent attention at the earliest possible moment.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Number of cowkeepers and purveyors of milk on the Register:-

Retail purveyors and producers	----	38
Wholesale purveyors and producers	----	14
Wholesale and retail purveyors	----	7
Butter only	----	7

Seven new registrations were granted during the year.

Meat and other foods:-

There are ten licensed slaughterhouses in the district but they are used for occasional slaughtering only. Meat is now distributed to the various butchers from a slaughterhouse situated outside the area. For a period a slaughterhouse at Clare was utilised for this purpose and between January 1st and April 10th 1904 lbs. of meat and edible offals were condemned as unfit for human food.

Certificates have been given for the condemnation of a considerable number of tins of canned meat, fish, peas and beans, evaporated and condensed milk etc., In most instances the tins appeared to have been damaged in transit. All cases were reported to the Food Salvage Officer.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933:- Eighteen licences to stun or slaughter animals have been granted during the year.

Bakehouses:- The number remains the same, viz., 14. There are no fresh circumstances to report.

Fried Fish Shops:- There is one shop situated at Clare. No complaints have been received regarding any nuisance caused by the trade.



Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and  
other Diseases.  
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The total number of cases reported was not large and there is little to comment upon. It will be noted that there were no notifications of diphtheria.

The cases of scarlet fever were mild and none required removal to hospital. If home conditions are at all suitable I think these mild cases do better at home than in hospital and the risk of cross infection is largely avoided. Measles and Whooping Cough are now notifiable. Regulations to this effect came into operation on October 23rd 1939.

Seventy one cases of measles and eight of whooping cough were notified. There was one death attributed to whooping cough. Measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation of the disease has not been used.

Diphtheria Immunisation.- Free immunisation is carried out at Schools in the District and is available both for school children and children under school age. The work was commenced early in February 1941 and has been rendered possible by the co-operation of the County Medical Officer of Health, the County Education Authority, and the Staff of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Two injections of A.P.T. are given, and the material is obtained free of charge from the Emergency Laboratory. No Schick testing has been done.

At the end of December 1942 74% of children under school age and 88% of children of school age had been fully protected.

So far as the non-notifiable infectious diseases are concerned there is little of importance to record, and no deaths have been attributed to influenza.

Bacteriological Examinations:- These are carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge.

Diphtheria Antitoxin:- Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners.

Scabies:- Cases of scabies are now treated at the cleansing centre situated in the adjoining Urban District of Haverhill. Benzyl benzoate is used and the treatment appears to be quite effectual. Thirty four cases were dealt with.



ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Total cases notified	At ages— years											Removed to Hospital	Deaths
		1-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-		
Enteric Fever	1											1		1
Scarlet Fever	19			1	2	3	12			1				-
Whooping Cough	8		4	1			1	1	1					-
Erysipelas	5									2	1	1	1	-
Measles	71	2	2	5	6	10	38	6		2				-
Pneumonia	12						1	1	1	3	2	4		-
Totals	116	2	6	7	8	13	52	8	2	8	3	6	1	5



Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during the Year.

Age periods	New cases		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Deaths	
	Pulmonary				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1							1	
5			1					
15								
25	2	1			1			
35								
45		1						
55								
65 & over								
Totals	2	2	1		1		1	

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths --- 1.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Arthur Morgan, M.A., M.R.C.S.  
D.P.H.

